



NEWS RELEASE

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests Thunder Basin National Grassland

Date: Oct. 22, 2010

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(Steamboat Springs, Colo.) Oct. 22, 2010 – The Routt National Forest will be burning slash piles starting next week. “These are piles of limbs and branches left from road side hazard tree removal projects,” said Rob Bringuel, fuels specialist. Forest Service crews will also be conducting a prescribed fire in the Seedhouse area off Forest Service Road 440, likely during the next couple of weeks. This fire will improve wildlife habitat by stimulating new vegetation growth, the same as natural fires do.

Bringuel said the slash pile burning will happen when conditions are appropriate for burning and it could take several weeks for the projects to be completed.

“Also, we are burning under restrictive prescriptions to minimize smoke impacts,” he said.

In the Steamboat Spring area, burning will take place north of Columbine, near Steamboat Lake, on Buffalo Pass, Steamboat Ski area, and along Forest Service Road 100. In the Yampa area, slash burning will take place in the Morrison Creek area and on Gore Pass. In Jackson County, fall burning will be at Big Creek Lakes, in the Gould and Rand areas, the Grizzly Trailhead area, and near Slackweiss Reservoir.

“We’ll have signs along the roads in the areas we working to let people know that the smoke is from controlled burns.” Bringuel said.

For more information, you may call the ranger districts in Steamboat Springs, 970-870-2299; Yampa, 970-638-4516; Walden, 970-723-2700.